

Appln No. 09/788,069
Amdt date January 15, 2004
Reply to Office action of July 15, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of printing a value bearing indicium (VBI), the method comprising the steps of:

generating a message digest by hashing relevant information;

generating a digital signature from the message digest;

communicating the digital signature from one of a plurality of stateless cyrptomodules to one of a plurality of remotely located user computers;

generating a textual representation of the digital signature;

generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is a ticket.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is a coupon.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is a traveler's check.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is currency.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and

the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;

the bar code further includes a bottom side; and

the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a bottom side;

the bar code further includes a top side; and

the representation of the digital signature bottom side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;

the bar code further includes a left side; and

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the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is postage for a mail piece.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, the relevant information including one or more of an indicium version number, an algorithm identifier, a certificate serial number, a postage security device manufacturer identifier, a postage security device model identifier, a postage security device serial number, an ascending register value, a postage amount, a date of mailing, a licensing postal code, a software identifier, a descending register value, and a rate category.

12. (Currently Amended) A data processing system adapted to print a VBI, the data processing system comprising:

one or more processors, at least one of which is associated with a stateless cryptomodule and another of which is associated with a user computer located remotely from the stateless cryptomodule; and

one or more memories operably coupled to the processors and having program instructions stored therein, the processors being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

generating a message digest by hashing relevant information;

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generating a digital signature from the message digest;

generating a text representation of the digital signature; and

generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information.

13. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;
the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and
the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

14. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;
the bar code further includes a bottom side; and
the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.

15. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further includes a bottom side;
the bar code further includes a top side; and
the representation of the digital signature bottom side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.

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16. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further
includes a left side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a left right; and

the representation of the digital signature left side is
adjacent to the 2-D bar code right side.

17. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12 wherein
the data processing system is a closed metering system.

18. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12 wherein
the data processing system is an open metering system.

19. (Currently Amended) A data processing system including a
stateless cryptomodule and a plurality of user computers in
communication with the cryptomodule, wherein the data processing
system is adapted to print a VBI, the data processing system
comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having
program instructions stored therein, the processor being
operable to execute the program instructions, the program
instructions including:

generating a message digest by hashing relevant
information;

generating a digital signature from the message
digest;

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generating a text representation of the digital signature; and

generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information.

20. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and

the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

21. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a bottom side; and

the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.

22. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a left side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a right side; and

the representation of the digital signature left side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code right side.

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23. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further
includes a bottom side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a top side; and

the representation of the digital signature bottom side is
adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.

24. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein
the VBI is postage for a mail piece.

25. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein
the VBI is a ticket.

26. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein
the VBI is a coupon.

27. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein
the VBI is a traveler's check.

28. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein
the VBI is currency.

29. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein
the VBI is postage for a mail piece.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium
embodying computer program instructions for execution by a
computer, the computer program instructions adapting a computer

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to provide a value bearing indicium to a user via a computer network, the computer program instructions comprising:

generating a message digest by hashing relevant information;

generating a digital signature from the message digest;

communicating the digital signature from one of a plurality of stateless cyrptomodules to one of a plurality of remotely located user computers;

generating a text representation of the digital signature; and

generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information.

31. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and

the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

32. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a bottom side; and

the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.

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33. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a left side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a right side; and

the representation of the digital signature left side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code right side.

34. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a bottom side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a top side; and

the representation of the digital signature bottom side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.

35. (Original) A VBI comprising:

a 2-D barcode including relevant information; and

a text representation of a digital signature generated from a message digest, the message digest generated using a secure hash algorithm to hash the relevant information.

36. (Original) The VBI of claim 35, wherein:

the VBI is postage for a mail piece; and

the relevant information is mailing information.

37. (Original) The VBI of claim 36, the mailing information including one or more of an indicium version number, an

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algorithm identifier, a certificate serial number, a postage security device manufacturer identifier, a postage security device model identifier, a postage security device serial number, an ascending register value, a postage amount, a date of mailing, a licensing postal code, a software identifier, a descending register value, and a rate category.